

C. Remarks

The claims are 1-10, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention. In particular, Applicants have amended claim 1 to specify aryl groups and the catalyst used in the reaction. Support for this amendment may be found, inter alia, in the specification on pages 7-15. Claim 10 has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

Claim 10 is objected to because of an informality. In view of the above amendment to this claim, which corrects the informality, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to satisfy the enablement requirement.

While Applicants disagree with the Examiner's allegations set forth in the Office Action, in order to expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to more specifically define the aryl groups. Accordingly, withdrawal of the enablement rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,034,206 (Yamamoto). The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

Yamamoto is directed to polyaryleneamines. These compounds are produced by reacting an phenyl amine and a dihalogenated phenyl compound in the presence of a catalyst. As acknowledged by the Examiner, the product of the reaction in Yamamoto is a compound in which all halogen moieties are aminated, which is different

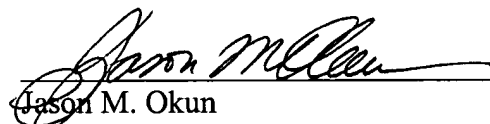
from the product of the method as presently claimed. The Examiner has alleged that the claims are nevertheless anticipated, because they recite the same reaction steps as those disclosed in Yamamoto.

As presently amended, the claims recite a catalyst, which has a phosphorus-containing ligand represented by formula (6-10), (6-11), (6-23), (6-24), (6-25), (6-26) or (6-31). Such a catalyst is neither disclosed nor suggested by Yamamoto. Accordingly, since Yamamoto clearly does not recite the same method steps as the ones presently claimed, the premise upon which the Examiner's rejection is based cannot be sustained. Thus, Yamamoto cannot affect the patentability of the presently claimed invention.

Wherefore, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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